

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 21: November - December 2014
Holiday edition

Interviews

Magistina Saga
HITT

**Fashion
& features**

Helcanen in Japan
Visual kei
Christmas

SEASON OF GHOSTS

Exclusive interview and review of their very 1st concert!

IN THIS EDITION

Fashion

Visual Kei fashion feature p. 5 - 17

Christmas J-fashion feature p. 62 - 73

J-MUSIC CORNER

Reviews p. 47

Live reports and photo features p. 48 - 51

Interviews with

HITT p. 52 - 53

Season of Ghosts p. 54 - 57

Magistina Saga p. 58 - 61

Lifestyle

Event reviews p. 18 - 33

Helcanen in Japan photo feature p. 34 - 45

Halloween in Disneyland Paris p. 25 - 30

And more...

Snap p. 75

Check that Cheki p. 74

Event calendar p. 76



Find us online: <http://www.houseofsecretsincorporated.be/BCM.htm>

Editorial e-mail: hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

On the cover: Sophia Sama of Season of Ghosts

Cover photography: provided by Sophia Sam of Season of Ghosts

On the back cover: Sophia Sama and Zombie Sam of Season of Ghosts live

Back cover photography: Bert Van den Wyngaert

Redaction: Babs Barning, Hilde Heyvaert, Ish, Bert Van den Wyngaert

Photography: Babs Barning, Hilde Heyvaert, Joke Schalley, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Clara Lina Wirz

Photography editing: Zombie Sam - INVICTUS MEDIA

Japanese translations: Fumiko Matsumoto, Dan Orlowitz

Visual kei fashion feature:

Models: Iori, Kyo, Meeki, Misaruka, Takurou, Tokami, Sophia Sama, Scarlet Valse, Synk;yet, Urugi, Zombie Sam

Photography: Hilde Heyvaert, Kiwamu Kai, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Akio Yokoyama

Photography editing: Zombie Sam - INVICTUS MEDIA

Christmas J-fashion feature:

Models: Andrea, Anso, Daisy Burns, Fanny, Hilde Heyvaert, Jens, Dorian H. Leamy, Lise, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen, Clara Lina Wirz,

Photography: Alishia Burns, Babs Barning, Hilde Heyvaert, Matthew Sweeck, Clara Lina Wirz,

Special thanks to: Kiwamu Kai of Starwave Records, King Records, Râmen Events, Too Wild and everyone who contributed and all our readers!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 3rd annual holiday edition! And even though it's not an end of year holiday but it has more to do with the release date: Happy Halloween! All jesting aside, they're all holidays worth celebrating and we of BCM hope you'll enjoy all of them!

First of all we would like to congratulate Azu and Nina, the winners of our "win a signed cheki of Shota competition" of last edition. I hope your cheki will find their way to your mailbox soon! We'll be doing more competitions like these in the future, so stay tuned!

This edition we also come bearing gifts, in the form of interviews with HITT, Season of Ghosts and Magistina Saga, who all passed through Belgium for performances.

And of course we have two fashion features: visual-kei and Christmas themed J-fashion (and steampunk) and a special Helcanen in Japan one, where talented photographer Helcanen gives us a unique view on several locations in the land of the rising sun!

As well as lots of reviews of events and music releases.

And of course our Check that Cheki and Snap pages are back also.

We, the entire team of BCM, hope you will enjoy this edition, and that you will have a splendid holiday season, regardless of which holiday(s) you celebrate!

Of course, last but definitely not least, a huge thank you to everyone who has made this edition possible: contributors, people active in the J-culture industry and of course, you, our readers! BCM couldn't exist with you guys, so thank you!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in Chief

check it!

LUNIE
SHOP.com

Japanese fashion
Clothes ★ Accessories
Shoes ★ Wigs ★ and more !



Exploring the world of
Visual kei fashion





Hair dye, La Riche Directions (Pink Carnation). **Cardigan**, H&M. **Blouse**, H&M. **Necklace**, Summer Tales Boutique. **Trousers**, Algonquins. **Socks**, model's own. **Rocking horse style shoes**, offbrand. **Accessories**, various offbrand stores.



Visual kei band *Misaruka* wearing stage outfits designed by *GetCrazy*.



*Sophia Sama of
Season of Ghosts
in her stage outfit
from the band's
concert at
Metal Female Voices Fest XII.*



Visual kei band *Scarlet Valse's* stage outfits.

Iori, vocalist of
Japanese metal band
Magistina Saga at
Metal Female Voices Fest XII.



*Urugi, guitarist of
Japanese metal band
Magistina Saga at
Metal Female Voices Fest XII.*



Kyo, bassist of
Japanese metal band
Magistina Saga at
Metal Female Voices Fest XII.



*Takuro, support drummer of
Japanese metal band
Magistina Saga at
Metal Female Voices Fest XII.*





Visual kei band *Synk;yet* wearing stage outfits designed by *GetCrazy*.

Zombie Sam of Hallowtide and Season of Ghosts wearing a more modern and casual visual kei style, mixing rock and vkei.





Hair dye, La Riche Directions (Blue Lagoon), **Cardigan**, thrifted. **Top**, Sure. **Necklace**, Summer Tales Boutique. **Bracelets**, various offbrand stores. **Skirt**, Punk Rave. **Underskirt**, gifted. **Tattoo tights**, ebay seller. **Rocking Horse style shoes**, taobao seller.



Visual kei band *Tokami* wearing stage outfits composed of garments bought at a local military surplus store.



Event: Abunai
 What: J-culture convention
 When: August 29 - 31
 Where: AT NH Koningshof, Veldhoven, The Netherlands
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Website: www.abunai.nl

As far as Japanese culture conventions go, *Abunai* is very varied and diverse, which is always a great thing. Especially because they have thought of and consequentially organising several things other events either don't think about or just forget to include in their program such as a butler and maid café and a manga library, Japanese festival activities, para para dancing and much more, all of them which were a big success at this edition of Abunai, themed

Class Dismissed.

The theme was present, but subtly so in the form of a black board at the entrance and the school themed manga visitors received at the entrance.

I would definitely recommend picking up a map, or asking for one with a member of staff, because the convention is held at a hotel and therefore the lay-out isn't what people are generally used to and it can be a bit confusing and daunting to **navigate**. So the map and program really help in getting around during your day. It can be pretty confusing whether you're walking into an activity area or into the hotel proper, which is something else the plan will help you with.

Food wise this is one of the stronger conventions, with food ranging from traditional western junk food such as hot dogs or quick lunches such as sandwiches to proper Japanese foods such as gyoza (always a convention favorite of many) or sushi meals. Vegan and vegetarian options were available.

The only downside is that only one of the two food courts comes with a seating area, which can make actually consuming the food you bought a bit daunting.

Price wise it was the same from what you expect from any con. The sushi was on the expensive side, but in the dealer room you could find affordable food pretty easily.

The **J-fashion** aficionados were also in for a treat at Abunai, as this convention distinguished itself from others yet again by having a lolita fashion show on the program. *Cat*, one of the girls from the Dutch lolita fashion community, had set up a fabulous show to introduce 13 different styles of the fashion, ranging from the very commonly known styles such as sweet to the more niche styles as pirate lolita. A large portion of clothing and styling was by Cat and her mother, and they really did a great job setting all of it up.

They made sure that each style was not only accompanied by matching music, but that each style was very well explained. Afterwards there was a Q&A so that the audience could ask even more questions about the fashion should they wish to do so. Especially for a fashion surrounded by so many misconceptions a show like this on a large convention is great, because it helps people understand it better and hopefully some of those misunderstandings and misgivings about it have been taken out of the heads of some people attending that weren't very aware of what lolita fashion is about before attending the fashion show.

To top it off, you could actually buy proper lolita garments at Abunai, and not just your typical "ita" garb that is a plague at many cons.

For me personally Abunai was a great event and I thoroughly enjoyed it the Saturday I was there. The only downsides in my personal opinion was that it took half an hour to really kick off after the doors opened. But I do understand that whilst it is a little annoying for those that get in early, it does mean that those that get in a little later either don't miss out on anything, or get there right near the start.

The other was the set-up of the **dealer room**, which was a little clumsy and could have been handled better and the fact that didn't open 'till an hour after doors opened. Especially as shopping is a large part of why many people visit a convention.

On the upside, the variety of things on sale was pretty good. The same large shops that you see pretty much everywhere were there, but a lot of smaller stores and webshops had booked a stand as well. The stores were very focused on J-culture. Comics and sci-fi of course, but a lot less so. Prices were the same you would expect from any convention.

Abunai really did a **splendid job** on their Class Dismissed edition, and I look forward to seeing that they will pull off next year.

Review and photography by Babs Barning.



Photographic impressions of
FARK, Fantasy und Rollenspielkonvent

August 30 - 31, Bergwerk, Reden, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



Lolita fashion high tea meet TEA WITH THE ROYALS

Sunday, September 14; Saltje's place, Lommel, Belgium.

Photography by Dave (group shot) and Hilde Heyvaert.



Our lovely hostess: Saltje.



Co-hostess Kathleen.





Event: Elfia Arcen
 What: Fantasy Fair
 When: Saturday, September 20 - Sunday, September 21
 Where: the grounds of Arcen castle, Arcen
 The Netherlands
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Website: www.elfia.com

This latest edition of *Elfia Arcen* could benefit from a splendid organisation (that really took notice from last year's edition and clearly improved upon it) and beautiful summer weather on the Saturday. We didn't attend both days, so obviously we can't speak for Sunday.

Unholy mud everywhere last year made the organisation really step up and make far better use of the pathways in the Arcen castle gardens to set up sections as well as market stands. Improvised pathways were spread out a little better and whilst they could have been wider, they were at least better laid out so that the left over mud from the rain on Friday wasn't posing any real issues to people attending the fair.

Whilst there were quite a few of returning **shops** and food stands, a lot of new ones had also come to this year's *Elfia*, making shopping diverse and a great range was on offer from craft supplies, all kinds of clothing, LARP supplies, contemporary culture and fandom bits and bobs and much, much more.

The **food** stands were also offering a good variety of meals, pretty reasonable in price, going from fast food such as fries to vegetarian and vegan falafel meals, garlic breads and meat on a stick. It was possible to eat under € 10 for a meal, but getting drinks was, as usual, slightly more of a hassle because of the fact that you have to front € 4 as insurance for your cup. Sure you get it back, but if you're short on cash, it can be a right pain. Brining your own cup to fantasy fairs is thus really the way forward. We know we keep on saying this, but not everyone is a veteran fantasy event visitor, so not everyone knows already so it's worth to mention for people new to this kind of event.

Traditionally Elfia Arcen is one of the most **varied** fantasy fairs, quite possibly the most varied, that the Netherlands has on offer. They have something for everyone: lectures, concerts, storytellers, roaming entertainment of all kinds, steampunk, traditional Japanese

displays, sci-fi, fantasy, dieselpunk, pirates, knights, you name and they've probably set up an area for it.

Japanese culture was represented in all sorts of elements from traditional Japan, to people roaming the grounds in traditional dress and armour, information points and kendo initiation. And of course several guests had dressed in various J-fashion styles.

This also means you see all sorts of people visiting, from those wearing outfits clearly stating which subculture they're part of, to people in regular clothes, all kinds of cosplayers and beautiful full on costumes and historical reproduction garments. If you want to admire fabulously dressed people, this is the event to go to.

Just **be aware** that it is also full of people that have bought a camera (and assorted kit) and think of themselves as a proper photographer. Whilst many photographers are decent people that will politely ask you to pose, the vast majority sadly will pretty much shove a camera in your face, and when one person asks someone for a photo you can expect several others to suddenly appear with their camera, and possibly try to get in the original asker's way. This was the first year that the situation was this bad, you could literally not walk 10 meters without photographers being a right bother. It had come to the point where many costumed guests were point blank refusing to pose for a photo, ignoring even polite requests because they were simply that fed up.

This is of course, not the organisation's fault, but we feel it needs to be mentioned regardless. Of course, this was a minority of people attending that behaved badly, and there were many truly wonderful people and things to see and do to compensate for their antics.

Thankfully the Arcen **castle grounds** are so diverse and simply huge that even with the crowds it was perfectly possible to find a quiet spot to just sit and relax for a bit, or to take photos unhindered of people you're with. Plus it's great fun exploring the entire domain, from the rose gardens and fountain ponds to the Asian garden, the animal compounds, fantasy style sections and big greenhouse with koi pond.

So crowdedness and the bad behaviour of some visitors aside, **this year's edition** of Elfia Arcen was undoubtedly one of the best so far thanks to the efforts put in by the organisation, and it was once again clear why Elfia Arcen is at the top of European fantasy events. We look forward to next year!

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
 Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Photographic impressions of **ELFIA ARCEN**

September 20 - 21; grounds of Arcen castle, Arcen, The Netherlands.

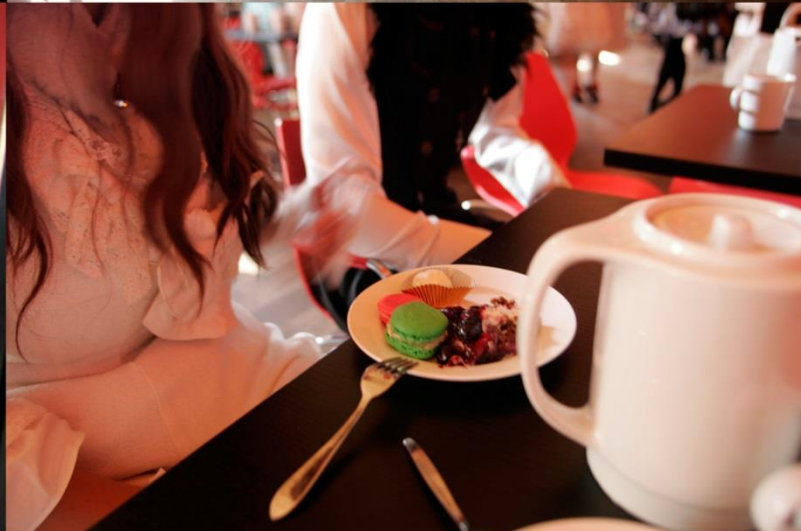
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and a kind passer-by (steampunk group shot).



Photographic impressions of the
MAGICAL SUMMER TALES BOUTIQUE
5TH ANNIVERSARY TEA PARTY

Sunday, September 21; Winkel van Sinkel, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Photography by Babs Barring and Joke Schalley.





out for drinks and chocolate!

LOLITEA

Sunday, September 28; Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and a kind passer-by.



Event: Disneyland Paris Halloween season
 What: the annual Halloween celebrations in the resort
 When: October 1 - November 2
 Where: Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris,
 Marne-la-Vallée, France
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula,
 starting at € 45
 Website: www.disneylandparis.com
 search for Halloween on the site itself

For the third time in a row since the *Hallo-wasn't* fiasco of 2011, *Disneyland Paris* is back to their autumnal family friendly and politically correct **Halloween** in their main park: the *Disneyland Park*. Even with *Maleficent* and her gang of villains, tagged all over the internet with *#ganghalloween* (or at least, that's what Disney would like) as headers of the season, the Halloween season remains cute and fun, yet very tame and without the truly spooky atmosphere you'd expect from Halloween, and that was rather more present during the haydays of *Pink Witches* and *Pumpkin Men*.

Let's start with something we all think about when we think Halloween: **Food!** Each year they release a, slightly different from the year before, *Halloween menu*. Which is basically a regular *Angus burger* (a kind of cheeseburger meal) with a different dessert, at a higher cost as that of the regular Angus menu. Not really an incentive for people to go for the Halloween version. That aside, during the low season days of the Halloween season when we were visiting we found that one of the restaurants serving the Halloween meal, *The Lucky Nugget Saloon*, was closed, which isn't a good move in itself, but that particular restaurant is also pretty much the only one in the park where vegetarians can walk upto the order desk and ask for a vegetarian burger meal. So by closing this restaurant they not only closed the one place in *Frontierland*, one of the two main lands focusing on Halloween in the park, serving the Halloween meal, but they also actively force vegetarians to live off candy or eat in one of the vastly more expensive table service or buffet restaurants. Which is frankly appalling (editor: none of the BCM crew visiting is vegetarian). France may not be known to be a vegetarian friendly country, but this is just beyond the pale. With *Disneyland Paris* profiling itself as an international resort, it should at least offer vegetarian options in every price range. You get free candy (Haribo Floppie's) at most meet and greets though.

Even though this is the third year in a row where Victorian ghosts and cute Jack o' Lanterns grace Main Street USA and autumnal Pumpkin Men inhabit *Frontierland*, and several characters (such as *Minnie Mouse* and *Goofy*) are out for meet and greets in their Halloween garb, and it's the best time to meet *Jack Skellington* and several villains that are only out during the Halloween season (such as *Doctor Facilier*), *Disneyland Paris* does its best to make subtle changes in the program, so that repeat visitors don't get bored, and there's something new every year.

This year there were some **new** Jack o' Lanterns on *Main Street USA*, not all in Victorian style, most noteworthy on top of *New Century Notions*, the renewed (and not in a good way) *Town Square Photography* (because apparently people no longer have need for photography related things in the age of digital photography, selling things like memory cards and Disney themed camera accessories obviously never dawned in the minds of the employees responsible for decisions like that). Another cute addition were the black kittens joining the other Halloween inhabitants of *Main Street USA*, and the fact that they not only brought out some of the ghosts that normally only get added later into the season, such as the mayor on *City Hall*, but added some new ones, such as the barbershop trio in between *City Hall* and the *Storybook Store*. Some of the character Jack o' Lanterns on *Central Plaza* were repainted, the giant Mickey Jack o' Lantern on the *Fantasyland Castle stage* was replaced by a, frankly daft, giant sunflower kind of outline of *Mickey Mouse's* head and in *Adventureland* an awesome pirate Jack o' Lantern statue was erected outside *Le Coffre du Capitaine*. In *Frontierland* the character Jack o' Lanterns outside the shop selling Halloween merchandise were replaced by an autumn flowers and Jack o' Lanterns kind of display, which was less like *Disney* but more like Halloween, so it's a nice touch regardless.

Also new on *Main Street USA* were the **meet and greets** with Halloween *Stitch*, for the occasion even in a new Halloween costume and Halloween *Marie*. Which is extra special as Marie (of *The Aristocats*) is not a *Disneyland Paris* regular. The downside to this, sadly, is the organisation of said meet and greets. There were two separate locations, *Town Square Boarding House* (*Winnie the Pooh* and *Marie*) and *Casey's Corner* (*Stitch* and *Minnie*), where two characters would meet guests during two set time periods. Whilst rotating with no rhyme or reason to it. So people wanting to meet one character, would have to start queuing and hope for the best, possibly queuing a few times all over again to succeed a photo. The other meet on greet of *Goofy Bon Bons* was still going on as usual, without issue, so that was nice. Added to that, because the weather was nice, he stayed out well past his allotted time on the program the day we were there.

That other Halloween regular, who has been around since 2008, is the *Pumpkin King* himself, *Jack Skellington*, star from *Tim Burton's* classic stop motion animation *The Nightmare before Christmas*. His set-up, *Jack and Sally's Cemetery*, was moved a little more towards the entrance to *Frontierland*, where it is more out of the way of people walking towards *Phantom Manor*, and decorated with a new little demon statue. No *Sally* though, whilst Mr Skellington is out daily for most of the day, he is seldom joined by his ragdoll girlfriend. As always Jack is one of the best characters to meet, and this year his portrayal is so much like the original character that it is practically uncanny.

Last but not least meet and greet wise, there were the villains of *Maleficent's Court*, meeting in the castle courtyard (the square at the back of the castle in *Fantasyland*) at the brambles set-up that was new for this year. Frankly this reference to the original *Sleeping Beauty* movie was a bit of a stroke of genius. What was a lot less clever of the organisation, however, was not organizing queues for the villains, resulting in parents randomly throwing their children at them, people cutting in before others that had clearly been waiting for a lot longer than them, and more socially unacceptable behavior. There were character attendants present, but they weren't actually doing much. It was misery during absolute low season, so I don't even want to know what special kind of hell it would be during busier or even peak season.

Speaking of villains, the old villains float from the 15th anniversary *Once upon a Dream parade* has been brought back for *The Maleficent Disney Villains Promenade*. Which would have been pretty cool, were it not for the horrible repainting of *Chernabog*, and the lack of the *Evil Queen* on the float when we saw it.

The other Halloween parade, *Mickey's Halloween Celebration*, was a cute 3 float autumnal affair, happening for the second year in a row and featuring characters that are otherwise rare, such as *Clarice*, unseen, such as *Horace Horseshoe*, *Clarabella Cow* and the *three little pigs*, as well as classic Disney stars such as *Mickey*, *Minnie* and *Chip and Dale*, as well as themed dancers and *Pumpkin Men*. It's very cute, very family oriented and just plain nice to see around, even though it is very cookie cutter, almost Americana in design.

Throughout most lands in the park, special Halloween merchandise was available, some classic, some slightly changed from the previous year(s) and some brand new. Ranging from pasta to candy to (hair) accessories, headwear, children's costumes, clothing, mugs, home décor and then some. Some very reasonably priced, some stupidly expensive. Most things were of decent quality though, which isn't a given in *Disneyland Paris*.

All in all, the Halloween season in *Disneyland Paris* remains a fun event to visit, be it for the first time or repeatedly, if you can stand a cute and kid-friendly family style Halloween at least. It looks great, it's fun to see things and characters you don't see during the rest of the year, and if you can stand the clear and obvious failings of the organisation, it's definitely a place considering a visit, especially as Halloween isn't quite that big in Europe and it's one of the few locations where you can get into proper Halloween atmosphere in this side of the world.

And it's easy to navigate too, thanks to the handy program (in French and English), that can not only be found in the dispensers at the entrance to the *Disneyland Park*, but also on the website itself, which makes advance planning easy. On October 31st the traditional *Soirée Halloween* is held, which needs an extra ticket on top of the regular entrance one. There's plenty to go around for the Halloween fan indeed, just be aware of the expenses that come with all these spooky good times, although *Disney Village* has some free things going on that start towards the end of the month of October.

Photographic impressions of Halloween on **MAIN STREET USA**

October 1 - November 2, Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



Photographic impressions of Halloween in **FRONTIERLAND**

October 1 – November 2, Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



Photographic impressions of Halloween in **ADVENTURELAND & FANTASYLAND**

Adventureland where pirates rule and Fantasyland under the rain of Maleficent, the star of this year's Halloween celebration and her gang of villains! #ganghalloween

October 1 - November 2, Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **THE HALLOWEEN PARADES**

The Maleficent Disney Villains promenade (#ganghalloween) and Mickey's Halloween Celebration.

October 1 - November 2, Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



CHECK THAT CHERI

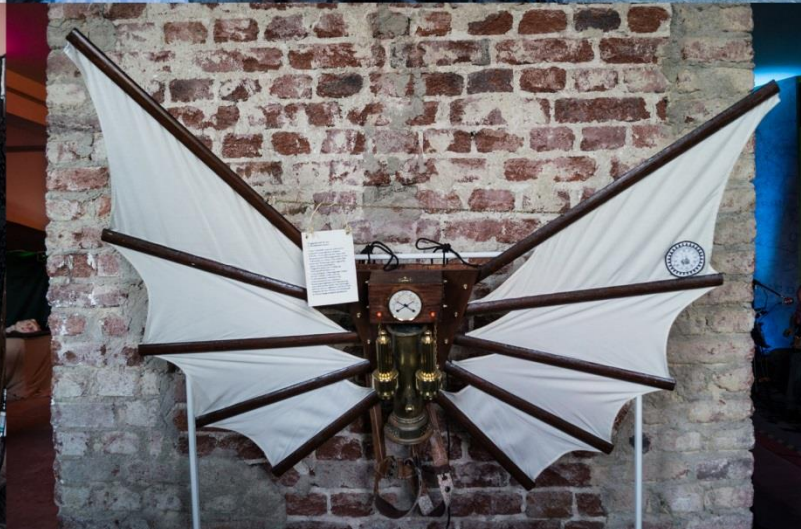
DISNEYLAND PARIS EDITION



Photographic impressions of SPACERITTER

October 3 -5, Oberhausen, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



Event: Metal Female Voices Fest XII
What: music festival with female fronted metal bands
When: October 17 - 19
Where: Oktoberhallen, Wieze, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be



For the 12th year in a row, *Metal Female Voices Fest* treated the metal fan to some of the best of the female fronted metal bands that the world (literally) has to offer. With not one but two **bands from Japan**, *HEADPHONES PRESIDENT* and *Magistina Saga*, this edition, as well as *Season of Ghosts*, a band heavily influenced by Japanese music and fronted by *Sophia Sama*, former vocalist of Japanese band *BLOOD STAINED CHILD*, the land of the rising sun was very well represented.

But aside from that fact, MFVF remains in general (there's douchebags everywhere alas) one of the most welcoming and open minded events in general. And even if people aren't into something when it starts, they're happy to allow it the opportunity to change their mind. The vast majority staff is also super friendly and helpful, which is also a bonus.

Whilst it is essentially a smaller scale music festival, it is one with **world-wide** acclaim and you not only get performers from all over the globe, but the audience is equally international with fans coming in from as far as Japan and South Africa as well as all over Europe, significantly more close to home.

Aside from of course **a great variety** of bands, of all subgenres of metal, this festival also has signing sessions, and some perks for the people that bought a vip ticket.

On site they make sure that a variety of drinks (ranging from beers, sodas, waters and [organic] fruit juices) and food (going from sandwiches, pasta and BBQ foods or the chip/fries stand across the *Oktoberhallen*) both inside and outside the building. The price was reasonable, at the same rates you'd generally pay at a café or something similar. Vegetarian options were available, albeit limited.

There was also a small **market**, which was awesome, but the downside was that it was situated at the back of the main hall, so obviously whilst the bands were performing shopping was a bit daunting as half the time vendors simply didn't hear what you were asking them. Unsurprisingly most shopping went on in between gigs. Aside from merchandise of the bands performing, there were also CD stands, clothes, a stand by talented photographer *Helcanen* and cute pop culture style gadgets and toys for sale.

The cheap cloak room (€ 1 per item left) was pretty brilliant, as the unexpected summery weather made that quite a few people had extra layers to leave behind.

As the bleachers were left accessible, and several benches and tables were installed at one side, there was ample room for people to sit down and relax a little.

An added bonus was that all seating areas had a view on the stage (some a little better than others but still, there was view on the stage).

Even though it was a metal festival, you could see people wearing all kinds of fashions, from what you would typically expect from metal fans to casual wear, regular clothes, J-fashion and different styles of goth, once again a testament to the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of the event.

After an edition this fabulous it is a right shame that there won't be an edition in 2015, as the organisation is taking a break next year, but at least it'll be something to look forward to when they return in 2016. I'm sure that the team of BCM that attended isn't the only ones looking forward to see what, undoubtedly, great things the organisation will come up with then.



Photographic impressions of **FACTS**

October 18 & 19, Flanders Expo, Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Jannes Lemaître, Joke Schallé and Agnes Van De Genachte.





helcanen in japan

The incredibly talented Helcanen visited Japan during the month of July, in the middle of summer, these are some of the unique views of the country through her lens.

Check out her other works on www.helcanen.be

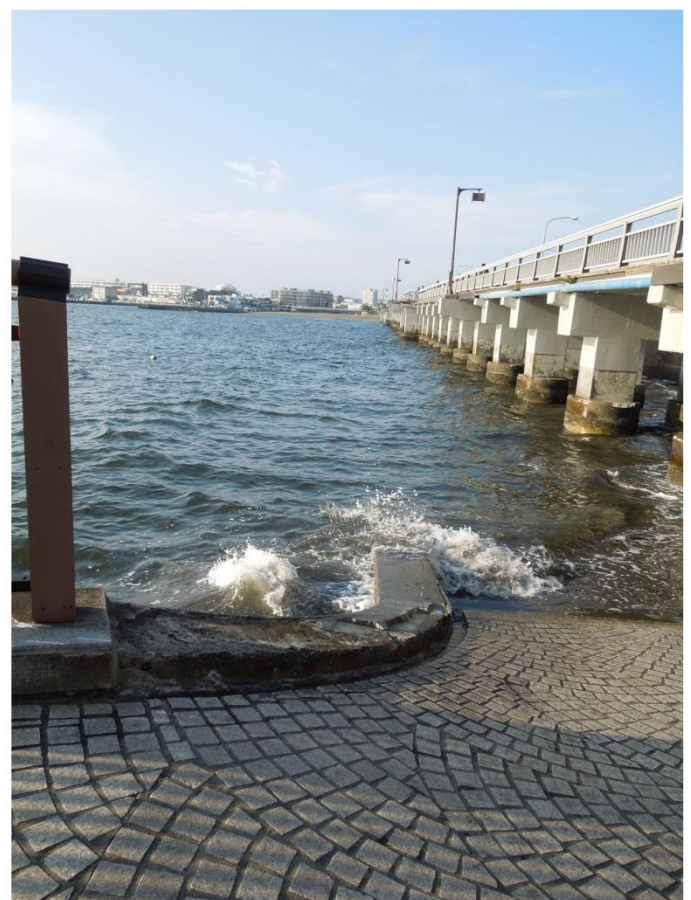
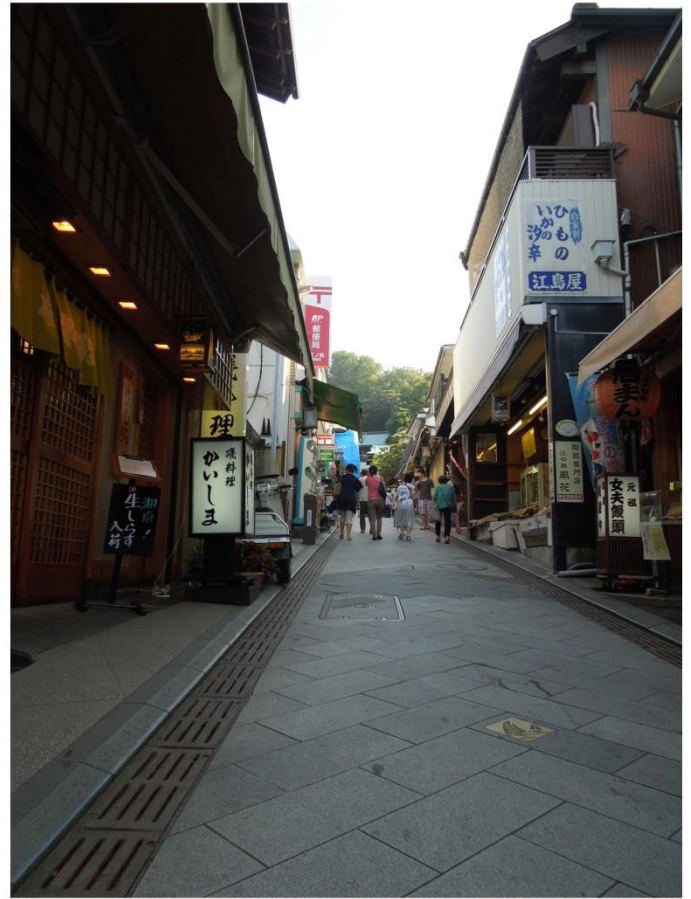


douzo meshiagare!

food



enoshima



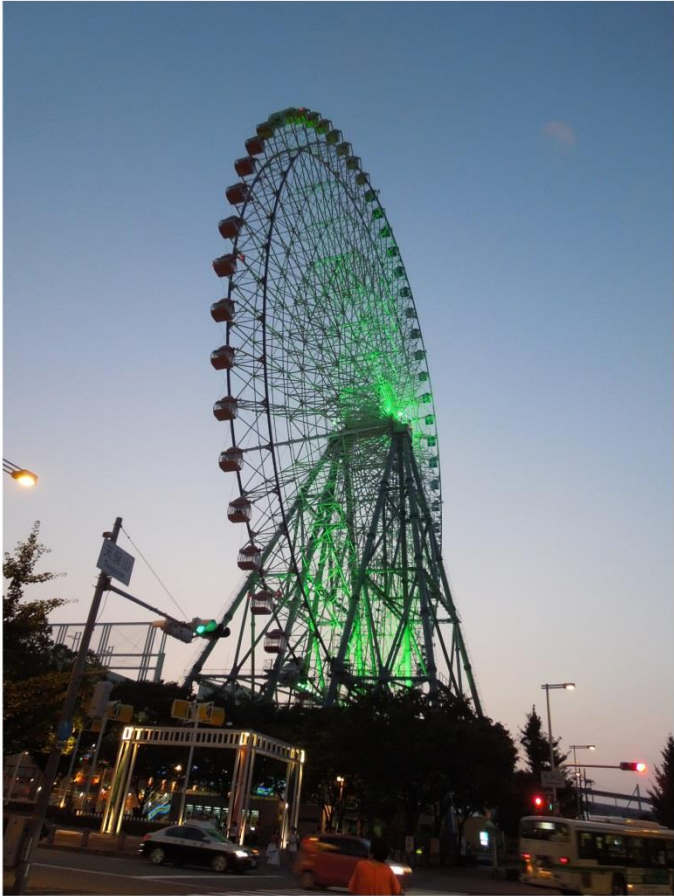


Odawara



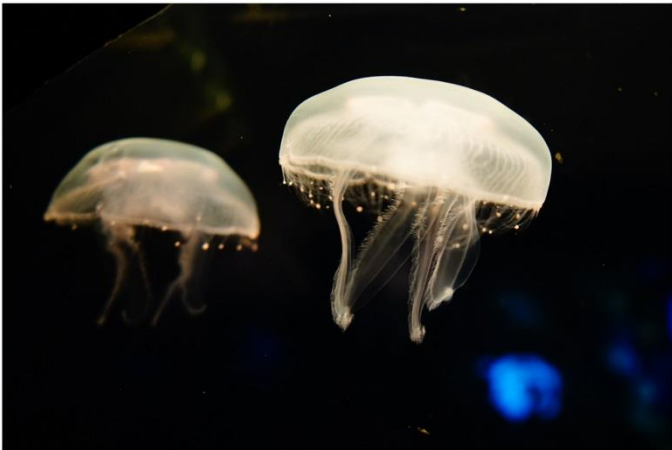
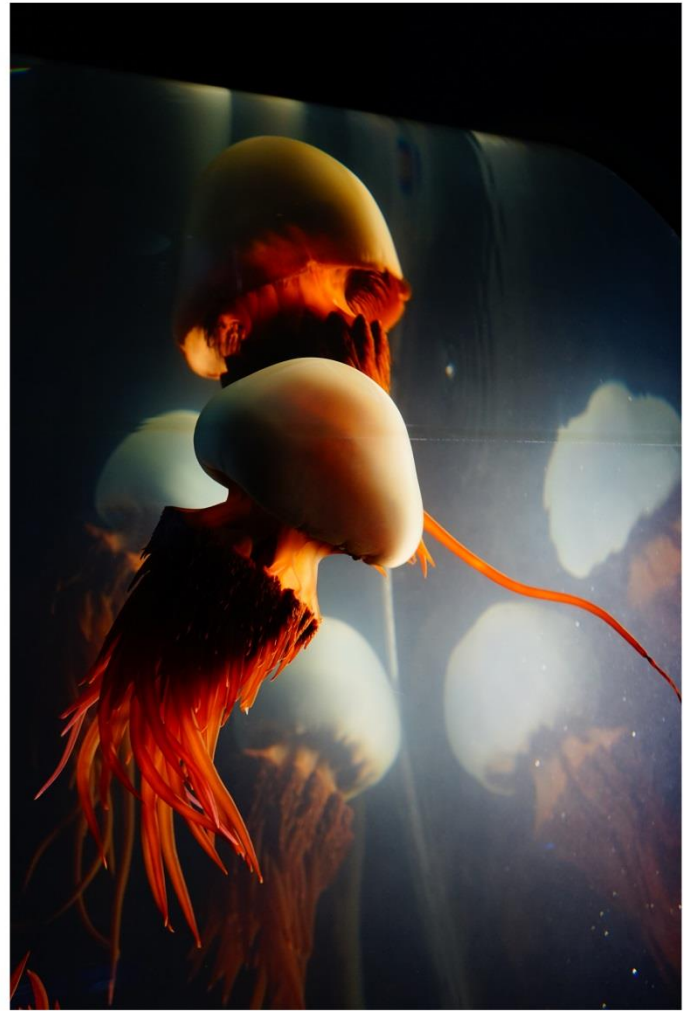


Osaka





Osaka aquarium



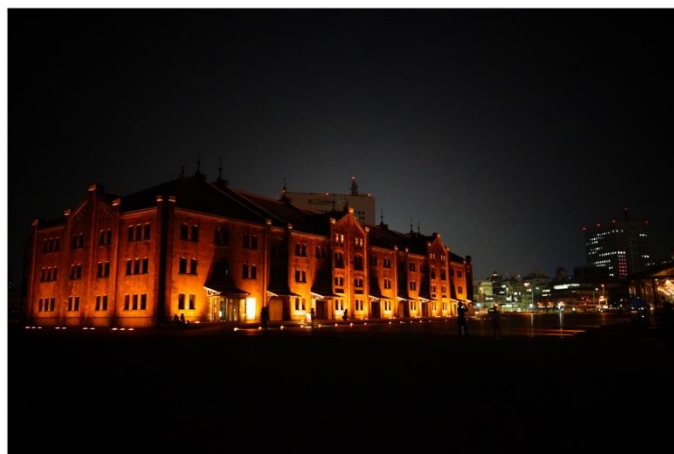
kurage

jellyfish



Kyoto





Yokohama by night

LIV'ERT
Psycho Resonance

J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Ish and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Magistina Saga
"Creaith Anthem"
Full album

Magistina Saga not only blew critics and (metal) fans away at their recent performance at the globally renowned *Metal Female Voices Fest* in Belgium, but their very first full album, *Creaith Anthem*, proves that they are not just an amazing live band but also rock hard and solid when it comes to recordings. With these 11 new songs, they are not only proven that they continue to positively evolve as a band, but that their skill as musicians keeps on growing with every new release. It has become a very varied album, full of their signature melodic sounds, whilst at the same time unafraid to add new elements and even experiment with other genres, to which the brilliant *Greed* is testament. Seldom have we heard so much unity within a band on a first full album, which is another point of proof that *Magistina* is a band to look into and look forward to their future releases. If you're a fan of (melodic female fronted) metal, be sure to check them out if you haven't yet, because this is definitely an album worth listening to.



NoGoD
"Make A New World"
Full album

NoGoD's latest 11 track full album release *Make A New World*, shows a clear evolution in the band's music. It is their most commercial sounding, or if you don't like the term commercial, most easily musically accessible album to date. Which isn't necessary a bad thing, because even though it is a lot more "mainstream heavy metal" so to speak, the band never loses track of their own particular sound that makes *NoGoD* so unique. This sound suits *NoGoD* well, and you can definitely hear that on the album. It has become a solid full CD, featuring everything that makes a metal fan adore the genre, from a band that is a well-oiled machine and has long mastered their craft. All of this makes *Make A New World* one of those albums you at the very least should have listened to if you're a fan of (Japanese) heavy metal. It definitely makes me curious what *NoGoD* will do next, but if they keep on this track, we'll definitely see more and more of them globally in my opinion. As an added bonus, the hard copy album includes an 8 page photo booklet with photos from the band's very first European performance at *Japan Expo*'s 15th anniversary edition last July, which is definitely a nice addition for the fans.



SAGA

"NO BORDER WORLD TOUR EURO MIX"

Album (European tour edition)

European release date: on their European tour, see the calendar for dates

SAGA is a bit more special than the bands we generally review in *BCM*, consisting out of members from China, Japan and Korea they are successfully uniting the three major Asian countries, uniting the best from all three musical scenes in their own unique blend of electro pop. *Rio*, their composer, hails from Japan, their vocalists *Kevin* and *Ramy* hail from China and Korea respectively. Even though they live in Japan, their music is sung in both Chinese and English, which is slightly surprising. Regardless, *NO BORDERS WORLD TOUR EURO MIX* has become a great poppy album that can both make you want to dance, or just enjoy it whilst sitting down and putting it up in the background. Forget about the languages used for the vocals, as you can clearly hear the best and the influences of all three nations. If you like "world music" so to speak, *SAGA* is definitely a band to check out because with their 8 song debut album they are definitely uniting some of the major Asian countries of the world in a great way. And if you like (electro) pop of either of the three countries, you'll find *SAGA* different than what you're used to, but you'll likely be pleasantly surprised nevertheless.



Sekai no Owari
"RPG"
1 track single

Sekai no Owari is sticking to the previously set tradition of European releases by once again releasing just the one song. *RPG* is an upbeat and fun little electro pop affair with just the right amount of electronics without going truly overboard. It's fun to listen to and catchy enough, but aside from that it's neither special or innovative. It's typical *Sekai no Owari* as we've come to know the band.

HITT

5 years in Europe tour

La Légia

Liège - Belgium

Saturday, September 27 2014

For those that have seen *HITT* live in the past, it comes to no surprise that he is already celebrating his 5th year of European tours, as the Japanese musician is skilled both on recorded works as well as being a strong and passionate live performer that truly knows how to put on a show, even if it's just himself and his piano on a stage. Regardless whether he is performing on a large(r) concert stage for a crowd of hundreds or in a small and cosy club venue for a significantly smaller crowd, he puts on a great performance that is enjoyable to all his fans attending the live.

It was no different in *La Légia*, an old house boat converted to a recording studio/concert venue. Even though the venue isn't the best for concerts, not even sporting a decent stage, which made that HITT was standing on the same level as the crowd, HITT didn't let the surroundings stop him from giving his all during the live, which was much appreciated by the gathered fans.

He played several songs from his new album *Melancholy to Boku*, including the title track, as well as older songs and classics that people always love to hear. It was a mix of (more) up tempo songs and ballads, making the live very varied for those attending.

HITT keeps on proving over and over that out of all the Japanese artists that come to Europe, he is definitely one of the top performers, even if it is just himself and his piano and the circumstances aren't the greatest live house wise. This was no different and we look forward to the next HITT live we'll be lucky enough to attend.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Season of Ghosts

Metal Female Voices Fest XII

Oktoberhallen

Wieze - Belgium

Saturday, October 18 2014

Season of Ghosts kicked off their very first show on the early morning of the Saturday of this year's edition of *Metal Female Voices Fest*, playing second that day. Despite of the early hour, the coming out was quite significant, of fans, early risers and people simply curious to see what this new band was about or happy to discover new music and grabbing the opportunity with both hands. The band is composed of four very seasoned performers, and the crowd and band connected the moment singer *Sophia Sama* greeted the audience.

Even though the set lasted only half an hour, and they played only 5 songs, they managed to get the audience along and were welcomed warmly by the crowd in turn. The audience clearly loved the music and the performance, and *Season of Ghosts* used that little time they had to pick four songs that really not only introduced the band during this first ever live, but also represented the new album, *The Human Paradox* (on exclusive pre-sale during the Saturday of the event) very well.

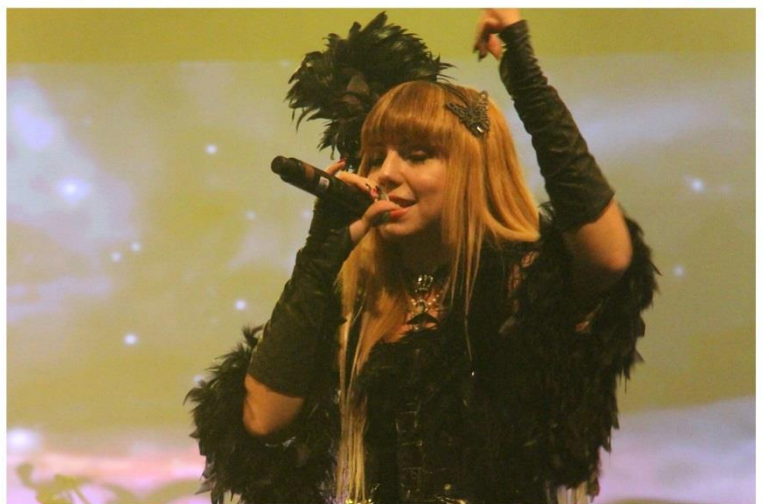
And as a thank you to Sophia's long time fans, that have loved her music and followed her career from long before *Season of Ghosts*, the final and fifth song they played was *STARGAZER*, one by Sophia's former band, the Japan based *BLOOD STAIN CHILD*.

With that half an hour on stage, *Season of Ghosts* also proved they are undoubtedly one of the up and coming bands to look out for.

Set list

1. GENESIS - the phoenix syndrome
2. DREAM; PARALYSIS
3. BEAUTIFUL ETERNAL THINGS
4. TIME TRAVELLERS
5. STARGAZER

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of the
HEADPHONE PRESIDENT live show at Metal Female Voices XII
where the Japanese metal band blew the audience away with their hard hitting, heavy and energetic show.

Saturday, October 18 2014; Oktoberhallen, Weeze, Belgium.

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Magistina Saga

Metal Female Voices Fest XII

Oktoberhallen

Wieze - Belgium

Sunday, October 19 2014

During *Magistina Saga's* soundcheck, a lot of people in the audience, which was really quite big, clearly did not have an open mind. Even during the well rehearsed and choreographed intro, a lot of frankly hurtful and/or rude comments were made which proved that visual kei might have been a little too out there for the average metal fan. Especially when the flag disconnected from Kyo's pole and at the sight of *Iori's* large veil a lot of people felt it necessary to drop a lot of commentary that was frankly not only rude, but also unnecessary and proof that an open mind wouldn't be amiss. The great thing though, is that the second the band really started playing, the vast majority from the audience connected and loved their music. I don't think they understood the concept of visual kei, or the choreography that came with the show, but they did get that *Magistina Saga* are not only a fantastic live band, but that they really put down the genre everyone was there for in the first place: metal.

It was no surprise what so ever that *Magistina Saga* managed to win over the audience with their music, and that the crowd kept going throughout all of it. They played a variety of songs, making sure to included those of which you can watch on youtube with the accompanying music video, so the people that had looked up the band before the live would hear things they recognised. Songs from their freshly released full album *Creaith Anthem* were also heavily featured. Like their other material still available for sale, it could be picked up at the merch boot, and guitarist Urugi wasted no time to inform the audience of this (just like every other band did really). Even though the band's knowledge of English is pretty limited, Urugi did his best to talk to the crowd several times, and people did their best to communicate with him in turn with what little Japanese they knew.

By the time the live was over, which was far too quickly, the vast majority of the naysayers was undoubtedly convinced of *Magistina Saga's* skill and talent, and the band very likely gained quite a few new fans from all over Europe that were present at their first even European live at this twelfth edition of Metal Female Voices Fest.

Set list

-Intro- (Creaith)

1. Double Face
 2. ideal≠reality
 3. Persona
- MC-
4. Deep Affection
 5. Darkside of the Moon
 6. Fate Gear



Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wynaert.





HITT:
5 years in
Europe!

This year's European tour of HITT not only marked the release of a new album, but also his 5th anniversary of European touring and activities.

We spoke to him before his concert in Liège for a short catch-up interview about his new CD, the tour and plans for the end of the year.

You are currently touring Europe on your 5th anniversary tour, how does it make you feel to have been active in Europe for 5 years already?

It makes me feel incredibly happy and blessed. When I first started touring here I was lucky that I was able to profit of the booming interest in Japanese culture and music in Europe. I got to come back here every year thanks to the great team I get to work with and because I have so many fans here. Some other artists haven't fared that well because due to the rise of *K-pop* and a variety of other reasons. My fans have a lot of love and care for me and my music, my nationality is irrelevant, I could be from anywhere in the world at this point and they'd still be here at my concerts. I'm very grateful to all my fans for their continued support. I can literally look outside at the people waiting for the doors to open and I will recognise fans because I've been seeing them at lives for years, some of them even for the past 5 years. So I'm amazed, touched and above all grateful and very, very happy *smiles*.

Your new album is called *Melancholy to Boku*, why did you choose that title especially?

HITT: Aurélie should help me explain this one, as she knows the story behind the album very well.

Aurélien Râmen (tour manager and promotor): HITT has always been a very melancholic person.

HITT: I'm not naturally a happy person *laughs*.

Aurélien: He tries very hard not to be melancholic and to maintain a positive outlook on life. During the years he has come to accept that melancholia is a part of him, however, even though he doesn't allow it to drag him down. Because he accepts that part of himself and learned to accept it, the album is called *Melancholy to boku*, melancholy and me.

HITT: I want people to know that melancholia isn't the enemy. The title track is as much for the listener as myself. I hope that it can help people that feel melancholic a lot to learn to accept that side of themselves and live with it, just like I have.

What makes you feel melancholic?

It's just my natural state of being. So anything and everything can be the cause really. I over think things too much.

For the PV of the album's title track you have worked with Jill of Rose Noire, how did you come to collaborate?

I first met Jill and Louie on tour in Mexico in 2010. We played the same convention. We didn't talk much that event, but when I was thinking about the new music for this album, I felt like I needed a violinist. I had never worked with violins before because I could never find the right violinist for my music, and whilst I could use samples and such, I feel that the violin just doesn't sound right that way. Then I remembered Rose Noire's performance in Mexico and immediately thought of Jill. She's incredibly talented. Normally violinists need an extensive score of sheet music to be able to perform a piece, but all she had to do is listen to the song. She has a great ear and the collaboration was great. Past September 6 I performed live with her, and it was a total dream come true. I'd definitely love to collaborate with her or Rose Noire again in the future if the opportunity presents itself *smiles*.

When listening to the CD I realised for an album with a title referring to melancholia, it is overall very happy. What about creating music makes you happiest?

It's actually the other way around. When I create music. I don't create music to feel a certain way, all my songs come into existence starting from the feeling I have at the time when I'm inspired and start working on it. If I feel happy, I will write a happy song, and so on. Every song is a recording of a moment in my life. My music helps me get through life, and I hope that it will help others get through theirs also.

In the video you are performing with a band, whilst on tour you are a solo artist completely. Do you ever feel like touring with support musicians also?

I do perform with the band in Japan, and to be honest I would love it if I could bring them to Europe with me. I like being in a band, I started out as a member of a band and I used to be in a punk band for a while in the past. I did perform solo in Japan too for a time, and whilst I still perform on my own from time to time in Japan, I really like my band. It took a while to put the right band together but now we're definitely there, my band members are all good friends. So if I could bring them along to Europe, that'd be brilliant for sure *smiles*.

This edition is our traditional holiday edition, do you have plans for the end of year holidays yet?

Laughs oh no. We don't really celebrate Christmas in Japan, well at least not like here in Europe. But to be honest I never have any plans because I don't like making plans. I just go with the flow *smiles*.

A lot of artists record Christmas versions of songs, is that something you'd ever want to do? And if yes, which song would you cover?

I have been performing *White Christmas* live on stage in Japan for a few years now, I'll likely do that again *smiles*.

Find HITT online:

Website: megahitt.com

Youtube channel: www.youtube.com/user/megahittofficial

Facebook: facebook.com/megahitt/info

Twitter: twitter.com/megahitt

Blog: ameblo.jp/i-love-hitters

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Entering
Sophia Sama's
**SEASON OF
GHOSTS...**



The multi-talented Sophia Sama, former vocalist of Japanese band *BLOOD STAIN CHILD* is back after a 2,5 year absence with her new solo project: **Season of Ghosts**. Together with her *Ghost Legion* she rocked the stage at *Metal Female Voices Fest XII*. We caught up with her afterwards to talk about the upcoming album (out on December 8 via Coroner Records, available for pre-order and reviewed in our previous edition) **The Human Paradox** and future plans for the end of year and beyond.

You've just performed your very first concert with *Season of Ghosts* here at *Metal Female Voices Fest*, what was the highlight for you personally?

The show itself, definitely, every aspect of it. Actually, it was my first live show in 2,5 years and the very first live show of Season of Ghosts, but the audience was amazing. Honestly I didn't expect so many people to show up so early in the morning (editor: Season of Ghosts played the Saturday morning from 11.20 – 11.50) I was really impressed by the crowd. They gave us a very, very warm welcome and I am really thankful for that. Thank you very much!

What made you choose the name Season of Ghosts in particular?

I have to be honest: I'm a huge fan of Neil Gaiman, and the name of the band was inspired by his *Season of Mists* from the *Sandman* series. The reason I chose this name is also because it is my view on humanity right now. The position humanity finds itself in at this point. I believe that there are souls that descend and will be reincarnated right now. As human beings they are a special type of soul that is waiting to cross a specific kind of season within the lifetime of humanity as a whole. And I believe that because of the great many deal of changes taking place it's a high concentration of spirituality. There is a distinctive spiritual turn in the history of humanity. So even though there are several and many meanings, right now we live in the season of ghosts. I really believe that those wise and enlightened souls are

being reincarnated between us, in the form of other human beings that are part of our lives, like a teacher, a neighbor, a friend or even a dog or a cat. Just to warn us or give us a message to try and save humanity, somehow. We are in the middle of a big turnabout and it's a huge thing, humanity is never going to be the same in a couple of years. In my opinion something really big is about to happen. That's it.

What's your favorite ghost story?

My favorite ghost story... *thinks*. I do love ghost stories but there are so many that I love and enjoy. If I have to choose one, I'm going to go with something very mainstream and say *Ghostbusters*. I even have a *Ghostbusters* t-shirt *grins*.

You are accompanied by your *Ghost Legion*, could you introduce each member by saying something positive about them so we get to know them a bit better too?

The Ghost Legion consists of three amazing people from Italy with exceptional experience who are all very unique.

First of all we have *Zombie Sam*, who plays the guitar. He's also in the band *Hallowtide*, formerly known as *Zombie Sam*. He's actually the co-producer of my album *The Human Paradox*. Aside from that he's done a lot of other work on the album also. He's been touring with very famous acts like *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Joey Lynn Turner* so he's very experienced when it comes to bringing a show. What can I say, actually he's my right-hand man.

On bass we have *Paul Brown* from *Disco Inferno*. He has a very long experience performing live, he's played over 1600 shows.

And finally we have *Max Buell*, who also has a long and a lot of experience playing live.

All of them are very experienced people and they make me feel just right: very confident with what I do. Even though I have only met Paul and Max a couple of days ago we already are like a big family. A big ghost family I should say *smiles*. They are fantastic people and I think you will see more of us in the future.

Left to right: Max Buell, Zombie Sam, Sophia Sama and Paul Brown.



The first song with vocals on your album is called *GENESIS – the Phoenix Syndrome*, how would you describe the beginning of *Season of Ghosts*?

I would describe it as rising up from the ashes, just like the phoenix. Because I have been absent for too long. The process has been both devastating and creative as well as very deep and intense. So yes, it is like being reborn from the ashes. Just like the song's lyrics suggest.

Another one of your songs is called *Time-Travellers*, if you could travel to any point in time, which would it be and why?

Probably the *Victorian era* because of the fashion. I suppose that it's pretty predictable knowing me *laughs*.

You have lived in Japan, been part of a Japanese band and several other Japan based projects ranging from music to fashion, and have worked with a Japanese guest on *The Human Paradox*. In how far are you influenced by Japanese culture for *Season of Ghosts*?

Absolutely! For the *Human Paradox* I collaborated with *MIA* from the Japanese visual kei band *Mejibray*. Which is a very up and coming and quite popular band over there in Japan. I cannot hide the fact that I am heavily influenced by Japanese culture and fashion. But even though I didn't try to be or sound like something specific, nor did I tried to force anything, I just wanted everything to pour out from me naturally. So Japanese culture just comes out naturally as it is always in my heart. I like anime, the Japanese sense of aesthetics, so you can find everything on *The Human Paradox*. There's been some reviewers that wrote that to them it totally sounds like an anime soundtrack and that makes me really happy because I'm a really big anime fan myself *smiles*. I would absolutely love to see one of my songs featured in an anime one day.

You run your social media and site in both English and Japanese. Is it actively your goal to take *Season of Ghosts* to Japan as soon as possible?

Yes definitely! About half of my fan base resides in Japan because that is where I started out. Because I feel very thankful towards my Japanese fans, I really do feel very grateful towards them, so I want to meet them again. I miss both them and Japan a lot and I want to go back there. Everyone is just so warm and so nice and going back and play for them again is the least I can do.

You're active on all main social media, do you think it is necessary for an artist to maintain such a public profile these days?

It's true, I'm even active on the Russian ones! But yes, absolutely! I think it's something you really have to do. You know the saying: if you don't bother with the internet, the internet is not going to bother with you either. I have met tons of artists that say things like "I'm a guitarist but I don't need to be on social media" and my response to that is always "ok but it's not the 1980s and you're not *Bon Jovi*." Because obviously, in either case it would have been fine. But otherwise it really isn't and you might as well start promoting yourself through facebook and the other social media because every artist that has the illusion that they don't have to be on social media is going to lose out. Unless they have a sugar daddy or a big record company willing to splurge on them they have to do it themselves and social media are a perfect and necessary tool.

You currently live in Greece, one of the countries that has been hit really hard by the economical crisis in Europe. How would you say the crisis affects artists, and musicians in particular? Does it affect you specifically also?

Actually, because Greece doesn't have any grants and funding for artists like other European, and especially countries in the EU does, this could be connected somewhat to your previous question. Because you know, when you use the internet, promotion via social media is essentially pretty much free. You just need your internet connection that you pay for every month and you're good to go. You are affected in the same way as everyone else in Greece is affected by the crisis, but in order to be an artist you just have to have an internet connection and promote your stuff really. So artists are really just on the same level as everyone else. And the same goes for other countries too, so I don't think the crisis should be an excuse for any artist. Me personally no, I don't feel affected. Because the internet is fair. It's there for everyone, we can all use it the same way. It's up to people to use it or not use it really.

This edition is our traditional holiday edition, how would you like to spend the holidays?

Christmas, and winter in general, is my favorite time of the year actually. Because I love the cold. Honestly, after having worked so hard and having missed all the possible holidays and all possible outings

with my friends, I would now like to just have a quiet celebration with just a few people. With lots and lots of food and fluffy friends I guess *smiles*.

Fans often bring gifts for artists they like, what would be the absolute best Christmas gift you could get?

The best present I could ever get is when someone would tell me that one of my songs helped them change their life for the better. That it made them smile, or helped them get over a tough period in their life. Things like that are always and without fault the best gratification for me. Material stuff is good, always welcome and definitely appreciated but what I'm truly here for, in the end of the day, is to help people. In any possible way I can. Exactly because I can't physically be next to everyone, I have to do it via my music. So telling me my music has changed your life for the better, is the best thing anyone could give me. If I make somebody's days better, that's my thanks.

After the holidays comes the new year of course, what can we expect from *Season of Ghosts* in 2015?

I guess lots of touring. And some free cover songs by myself and *Zombie Sam*. And maybe other things that I haven't figured out yet. But we have tons of ideas, so you can look forward to some nice surprises from us in the future.

And last but not least, on a closing note, as what would you like to reincarnate?

Thinks hmmm, I think as a big fat Persian cat in a nice home. That would be the best: to be a fluffy cat living a peaceful life. Being fluffy and dramatic and loveable and petted by everyone, that would be fantastic.

Find *Season of Ghosts* and *Sophia* online:

Website: seasonofghosts.com

Youtube channel: youtube.com/user/seasonofghosts

Facebook: facebook.com/SophiaSamaOfficial

Twitter: twitter.com/Sophia_Sama

Blog: see the blog section on the website as well as ameblo.jp/sakurasomnium

Instagram: instagram.com/sophia_somnium

Tumblr: sophia-sama.tumblr.com

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Photo edit by *Zombie Sam* - INVICTUS MEDIA.



Share what is
Good.

Do what is right.

Love
Sophia
xx

MAGISTINA SAGA:
Fairy tales in Belgium.

Japanese visual kei/heavy metal band **Magistina Saga** was the subject of a whole lot of firsts on the last day of this year's *Metal Female Voices Fest*.

Not only were they the first visual kei band to perform at the festival, it was also the band's first time in Belgium and Europe full stop.

We sat down with them after their splendid performance to catch-up.

This is your very first concert in Europe, can you describe how you first felt when you heard the news you were going to perform in Belgium?

Urugi (guitar): I was very happy to hear we got to perform here.

Iori (vocals): Yes, me too *smiles*. I was looking forward to it very much.

Kyo (bass): The same goes for me as well.

Takuro (drums): I love beer *grins*.

Metal Female Voices Fest is a festival with international acclaim, what does it mean for you to be on the bill of an event of this magnitude?

Urugi: It brings a certain status with it.

Iori: It will definitely be a good way to advertise our band more globally.

Kyo: It's a good step towards being known worldwide.

Takuro: For me personally, as I am a session musician, it's a great opportunity to prove myself as a drummer for a live band.

You got to perform on the festival thanks to your European promoter Too Wild, who are also organising other details of your stay such as the press, could you tell us a little more about the collaboration? And what do you hope they'll be able to do for Magistina Saga in the future?

Urugi: It's a very positive collaboration and if they ask us to come back we definitely will.

Iori: I've only been to Canada and Belgium so far so I'd love to visit other places with the band as well.

Kyo: I hope that a European tour will follow.

Takuro: I hope I will be join the band as a full member.

What do you hope your performance here will mean for the future of the band?

Takuro: That we will make a better name for ourselves in the metal scene, playing here is definitely a big step forward in regards to the future of the band as it is an event that is so well known across the globe.

Urugi: I absolutely agree with what Takuro said, but also as I mentioned before, Magistina Saga now truly has an international status as a band, which is great.

Belgium is your only European date so far, did you do any research about the country prior to coming here?

Urugi: I looked into different kinds of beer.

Kyo: And I into waffles *grins*.

Iori: I re-read *The Dog of Flanders*.

Takuro: Chocolate, I want to try all the different kinds *grins*.

Fairy tales are very important to Magistina Saga, did you look into any of the Belgian fairy tales and folklore?

Everyone: Sadly we haven't had the opportunity, could you tell us some later? Because we'd love to hear and learn about them.

Is there anything you hope to be able to see and visit whilst in Belgium?

Iori: As I am a big fan of the story *The Dog of Flanders*, I would love to see the Antwerp cathedral one day.

Urugi: I saw *Manneken Pis* on our first day here *grins*.

Kyo: I love architecture, and I've been able to see some beautiful examples of that so far.

Takuro: I like to see the landscapes of the different towns, but what I really wanted to see, and I succeeded at that, was the faces of the audience *smiles*.



Kyo, you have directed an MV for Magistina Saga before, is directing something you want to do more in the future? And with which other band than your own would you still hope to work one day?

Smiles it is. First I want to work on Magistina Saga, both on the music and if the opportunity arises to direct MVs again, and then later of course I'd like to work with other bands too if possible. But first I want to focus on my own.

You will have released your first full CD, *Creaith Anthem* this year, as well as your first DVD *MV best off*. So 2014 is an important year for the band, it's slowly coming to an end, what do you hope to accomplish in 2015?

Urugi: In February we will be playing our second one man show in Osaka. We want to release a new mini-album at the same time as well, so we're hard at work on new material.

How do you feel your music has evolved and grown from the release of your first single *ギルド*, to *Creaith Anthem* and today's performance?

Iori: We definitely have a far wider range of songs now.

Urugi: The level of our performance has grown, and continues to do so. Plus we only play good songs now *laughs and causes Iori to laugh also*.

Iori: And we have beautiful art for our jackets.

Kyo: We got to do the MV DVD, that's definitely new for us.

Urugi: Whilst we first released singles, we got to release an album with 11 songs.

Iori: Now you're just advertising *laughs*.

When listening to *Creaith Anthem* I noticed that you have a very strong unity in the band between instruments, electronic elements and vocals. Is this something that has grown naturally over the course of time or do you guys have special tricks to really be as one as a band?

Takurou: I'm not a full member of the band, but I have to say that we all get along really well, and that definitely helps. We're all good

friends and we can totally be stupid together *laughs and causes the others to laugh also*.

Urugi: Kyo and I have been friends for over 10 years, which is also how long we've been the main creating team behind the band. So of course that will reflect in our music.

You are not afraid to mix in other genres, your song *Greed* has a strong Jazzy feel to it. Which other genres than metal do you like to listen to and would you like to incorporate in future songs?

Iori: That's actually the beautiful thing about being a visual kei band. Visual kei isn't bound to any one genre. Even though we are primarily a metal band, because we are also a visual kei band, we get to mix in whatever we feel like at the time. So in the future, I'm sure we'll mix in other genres too, but at this point we've not decided which one or ones yet.

One of your songs is called *Deep Affection*, could you tell us about something that you have a deep affection for yourself and that influences you when creating music?

Urugi: Actually, a while ago, my beloved pet rabbit died, which made me very sad, and Iori and I made a song about it together.

Iori: He wrote the music and I wrote the lyrics for it after hearing that. But the theme of the song isn't actually the death of the rabbit, but the Little Mermaid.

You each have a specific colour within the band, could you explain what the colour means to you personally?

Iori: It's just easy to keep members apart this way, it's just an image colour really.

Urugi: The colours have no special meaning, it's just very easy this way *smiles*.

Website: www.magistinasaga.com

Facebook: facebook.com/magistinasaga

Myspace: myspace.com/magistinasaga

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wynngaert and Hilde Heyvaert.
Japanese translation by Fumiko Matsumoto. Many thanks to Too Wild and Fumiko Matsumoto.



~~ug~~

Thank you!

私はサムライ!

刃大好き!

~~田~~ you

~~By~~

またベルギーに会いに

来ます!!

ありがとう★

ライブ 来てね~ 

来るんだよね~

~~たろー~~
ク

ベルギーいい国ですよ!!

また来ます!!

ありがとう!!



welcome
to
CHRISTMAS TOWN



Headbow, model's own. Coat, offbrand. Turtleneck sweater, thrifted. Goggles, convention seller. Dress, Infanta. Muffler, handmade by Lora. Totebag, offbrand. Tights, Veritas. Boots, Brako Anatomics. Accessories, offbrand.



Gingerbread man brooch, Lintje. Hat, Sonia Rykiel pour H&M. Frames, Theo. Cardigan, Primark. Blouse, Forever 21. Leather armor ring, Poorman's Gold Label. Bracelets, vintage, handmade and Fossil. Key necklace, vintage. Belt bag, Zara Girls. Bag, Zatchels. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Leggings, customised H&M. Spats, House of Secrets Incorporated. Boots, Kickers. Umbrella, Angelic Pretty (Classical Champagne).





Christmas themed steampunk outfit, composed entirely out of offbrand and mainly thrifted garments and accessories.



Headbow, Angelic Pretty. Hair Accessories, 6% DokiDoki and offbrand. Wig, Gothic & Lolita Wigs. Blouse, Dear Celine. JSK, Angelic Pretty. Rings, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright and Angelic Pretty. Socks, Angelic Pretty. Shoes, Poetic License. Other accessories, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright and offbrand.





Hat, Yolanda. Blazer, Bodyline. Brooch, handmade by Clara. Pocket watch necklace, Bijou Brigitte. Cage necklace, Primark. Skirt, Bodyline. Plush reindeer bag, thrifted. Tights, C&A. Boots, Deichmann.



Gingerbread man brooch, Lintje. Hat, Sonia Rykiel pour H&M. Frames, Theo. Faux fur stole, H&M. Coat, H&M. Bag, Fossil. Mittens, H&M. Snow man print skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Raven. Leggings, H&M. Boots, Forever 21. Umbrella, Lisbeth Dahl.







Tiara, thrifted. Dress, vintage.

CHECK THAT CHEKI

Want to be in the next edition's Check that Cheki page?
Send a Cheki photo of yourself to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

NOVEMBER 2014

French Café's Halloween

J-fashion Walk

Date: 1

Venue: n/a

City: Brussels

Country: Belgium

Crossfaith live

APOCALYZE NOW European Tour

1: Le Ferrailleur, Nantes, France

2: Divan Du Monde, Paris, France

3: De Klinker Club, Aarschot, Belgium

4: Helling, Utrecht, The Netherlands

5: Schlachthof, Wiesbaden, Germany

6: Backstage Halle, Munich, Germany

8: Logo, Hamburg, Germany

9: Magnet, Berlin, Germany

10: Underground, Cologne, Germany

26: Zal Ozhidaniya, St-Petersburg, Russia

27: Volta, Moscow, Russia

www.crossfaith.jp/en/tour

SAGA European Tour

1: Lucca Comics, Italy

2: La Légia, Liège, Belgium

6: 330 Live, Den Hague, The Netherlands

7: MTC, Cologne, Germany

8: Japan Touch, Lyon, France

9: Replugged, Vienna, Austria

10: Firlej, Wrocław, Poland

14: Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France

15: Paris Manga, Paris, France

16: La Java, Paris, France

www.ramen-events.com

Babymetal live in the UK

Date: 8

Venue: O2 Academy Brixton

City: London

Country: UK

www.killilive.com/gigs/babymetal-london-2014-11-08-19-00

Emporium Vernesque

Date: 8

Venue: Luxor Live

City: Arnhem

Country: The Netherlands

www.emporiumvernesque.com

Satsuki on Tour

Squall of Emotions EU tour

28: Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France

29: La Java, Paris, France

30: Ma Marquise, Lyon, France

ramen-events.com/satsuki/index.html

DECEMBER 2014

ONE OK ROCK European Tour

1: Batschkapp, Frankfurt, Germany

2: Zenith, Paris, France

3: Komplex Klub, Zurich, Switzerland

4: Magazzini Generali, Milan, Italy

6: Theaterfabric, Munich, Germany

7: Essigfabrik, Cologne, Germany

8: Kesselhaus, Berlin, Germany

9: Amager Bio, Copenhagen, Denmark

10: Debaser Medis, Stockholm, Sweden

12: Grosse Freiheit, Hamburg, Germany

13: Melkweg Max, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

14: Trix Club, Antwerp, Belgium

16: Electric Ballroom, London, UK

19: St-Petersburg, Russia

21: Glavclub, Moscow, Russia

www.oneokrock.com

Satsuki on Tour

Squall of Emotions EU tour

2: Replugged, Vienne, Austria

4: Bambi Galore, Hamburg, Germany

5: MTC, Cologne, Germany

6: P60, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

7: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium

9: Venue TBA, Helsinki, Finland

12: TBA

13: TBA

14: Venue TBA, Munich, Germany

ramen-events.com/satsuki/index.html

International (winter) Lolita Day

Date: 6

Worldwide! (Lolita fashion holiday)

Ruffle Butt Christmas (Lolita Christmas)

Date: 28

Worldwide! (Lolita fashion holiday)

FEBRUARY 2015

TSUNACON

Date: 15

Venue: Erasmus Expo

City: Rotterdam

Country: The Netherlands

www.tsunacon.nl

La Vie en Rose (J-fashion tea party)

Date: 21

Venue: TBA

City: Paris

Country: France

Dress code: J-fashion

streetfashioneurope.doomby.com

La Vie en Rose Baby, the Stars Shine Bright tea party

Date: 22

Venue: TBA

City: Paris

Country: France

Dresscode: mandatory that the outfit main piece consists of pieces by Baby, the Stars Shines Bright
streetfashioneurope.doomby.com

MARCH 2015

Japan Expo Sud

Date: 6 – 8

Venue: Parc Chanot

City: Marseilles

Country: France

www.japan-expo-sud.com

Made in Asia

Date: 13 – 15

Venue: Brussels Expo

City: Laeken

Country: Belgium

www.madeinasia.be

OshareCon

Date: 14

Venue: Expo Houten

City: Houten

Country: The Netherlands

www.osharecon.nl

Dutch Comic Con

Date: 28 & 29

Venue: Jaarbeurs

City: Utrecht

Country: The Netherlands

<http://dutchcomiccon.com>

APRIL 2015

COALESCAREMONIUM

Date: 11

Venue: Bouche a Oreille

City: Etterbeek

Country: Belgium

www.coalescaremonium.info

JUNE 2015

Hellocon

Date: 5

Venue: Kulltuuriareena Gloria

City: Helsinki

Country: Finland

Hellocon.blogspot.fi

TOO WILD

*Too Wild Agency,
Providing services to Artists*

Promotion - Photoshoot
Design - Video - Booking
Communication - etc...

toowild.agency@gmail.com

www.too-wild.com



SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadline

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 22 is **December 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of December 25th will not appear in the magazine (unless otherwise agreed beforehand). Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better!

(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit).

Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM # 22,
our Holiday edition,
spanning the months
January and February 2015.

Fashion

Style Spotlight: aomoji kei!

Aomoji kei fashion feature.

We are still looking for photo submission for this feature.

So if you have a good quality high resolution photo of yourself wearing aomoji kei fashion, please don't hesitate to send it in!

Love J-fashion feature

Any type of J-fashion is welcome, as long as it is in the right theme!
Be they Valentine's outfits, or the style you love, it's all about the love for Japanese fashion! Also, be sure to send a quote along stating what you love about the fashion or outfit you're wearing along with the outfit run-down!

Snap and cheki pages and more!

J-Music Corner

CD reviews

Concert reviews

Interviews with

Calmando Qual

Crossfaith

Saga

Satsuki

Lifestyle

Event reviews

J-fashion meets

(Artifakt) steampunk meets

And much, much more!

If you want to be featured in any of our outfit snaps, send in a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion (any style allowed), or come pose for us if you see a photographer of BCM at an event and you may very well see yourself in the next Snap!

If you want to be part of the new Check that Cheki page, send in scans of photos you have taken with any kind of instant camera. Instax models are preferred but by all means, any instant camera is ok as long as the photo is relevant to BCM.





Season of Ghosts live at Metal Female Voices Fest XII.

Sophia Sama and Zombie Sam of Season of Ghosts performing.
Photo by Bert Van den Wyngaert.